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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 APRIL 1987

Israel: Clashes With Palestinians, Hizballah

Israeli helicopters attacked a building on the outskirts of the Al-Rashidiyah refugee camp 19 April, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the target was a terrorist base for launching attacks against Israel. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon cited a report that a woman was killed and three were wounded in the raid.

The helicopter raid followed the killing of two IDF soldiers in a clash with a three-man Fatah squad that had infiltrated into northern Israel from southern Lebanon earlier the same day. The Palestinians were all killed in the shoot-out, Jerusalem radio noted, adding that they had apparently come from Sidon and were intending to take hostages in an attempt to secure the release of security prisoners in Israel.

In an earlier development inside Lebanon, IDF and SLA units repulsed an 18 April attack by Hizballah gunmen near Al-Qantarah, a village in the central sector of Israel's security strip, according to Jerusalem radio. Eighteen Hizballah men were killed and four IDF soldiers were wounded, the radio said. The Israelis responded to the Hizballah attack by using artillery and helicopters to bombard Lebanese villages, Beirut radio reported.

In Damascus, a Palestinian official cited by AFP disclosed that Hizballah is negotiating to exchange two captured Israeli soldiers for Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

Preparations for PNC

Eight Palestinian factions concluded their dialogue in Algiers 19 April with an agreement that all of them will attend the PNC session starting the following day, KUNA reported. PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir confirmed that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has abrogated the February 1985 agreement with Jordan but said 'Arafat has rejected demands for the severance of the PLO's relations with Egypt, the agency added. An earlier *Jordan Times* report noted that differences over relations with Egypt did not prevent the factions from concluding a draft agreement to be submitted to the PNC, adding that the draft explicitly rejects U.S. preconditions for the PLO to join the peace process but endorses the idea of a UN-sponsored international conference. Meanwhile, an Egyptian delegation left Cairo to attend the PNC in Algiers, Radio Monte Carlo reported, and PFLP leader George Habash confirmed that he will attend the PNC despite his faction's failure to obtain a ban on relations with Egypt.

However, four Damascus-based Palestinian factions will not attend the PNC, according to Radio Monte Carlo. They are the PFLP-GC, Al-Sa'iqah, the Fatah Uprising Movement, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front. Former PNC speaker Khalid al-Fahum stressed that he will not attend unless the conferees endorse the 25 March Tripoli document and postpone the meeting to allow time for talks with the factions in Damascus. The radio noted that Al-Fahum's stand follows Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's declaration that Syria is willing to receive all Palestinian factions that endorse the Tripoli document. Al-Asad has been invited to attend the PNC, KUNA noted, but the Syrian leader has not publicly responded to 'Arafat's invitation. Meanwhile, Baghdad Voice of PLO carried another strong verbal attack on the Syrian regime in a 17 April commentary, asserting that behind "honeyed words" the Al-Asad regime harbors "venomous poison" for the Palestinian cause.

As for the status of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, led by Sabri al-Banna (Abu Nidal), KUNA cited the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad's* report that the Palestinian factions in Algiers have rejected representation for the group in the PLO Executive Committee, but they have agreed to allow it to send representatives to the PNC. In a related development, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated that all participants in the Algiers dialogue have agreed to concentrate military operations inside the "occupied territory," according to KUNA, which said this indicates Abu Nidal's group has agreed to this line as it was one of the eight factions in the Algiers dialogue. Palestinian sources cited by the agency had earlier stressed that Abu Nidal's group would only be allowed to return to the PNC if it declared an end to its "external operations."

Libya

PDRY Visitor — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and visiting YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid discussed ways to strengthen the "militant relations" between Libya and the PDRY during talks in Tripoli 17 April, Aden radio reported. Their talks also focused on efforts to unify the PLO, the radio noted, and Al-Bid will attend the forthcoming PNC session in Algiers.

Briton's Release — Col al-Qadhdhafi has intervened to secure the release of jailed British engineer Robert Maxwell, JANA reported 18 April, adding that this move followed an initiative by a visiting British MP.

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi denied reports of a coup attempt by the military, the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad* reported 17 April, noting that the prime minister said such rumors were aimed at undermining Sudan's democratic government.

All Libyan troops have withdrawn from southern Sudan, according to a military statement carried by SUNA 17 April. The statement followed a Chadian Government threat to attack any Libyan troops remaining in Sudan, AFP reported.

Maghreb Affairs

Western Sahara — Rabat radio broadcast a letter to King Hassan II from the Moroccan commander in the "southern region" 17 April announcing that work is underway to build a new defense line from the Atlantic coast to link up with lines that will extend 220 km along the Mauritanian border. The Moroccan commander said the new defenses will enable his troops to push back Polisario forces which have moved up the coastline.

An Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Algiers radio 19 April said his country shares Mauritania's concern over the "dangerous situation" created by the construction of a Moroccan defensive wall along the Mauritanian border. The spokesman expressed Algeria's "full solidarity" with Mauritania in the face of this Moroccan action, which is "dangerous for peace" and undermines all current efforts to find a peaceful solution of the conflict in the Western Sahara.

Tunisia — Social Democrat Movement leader Ahmed Mestiri faces charges of organizing an unauthorized meeting of opposition parties to protest recent arrests of Islamic fundamentalists, AFP reported. Mestiri was briefly detained by police 17 April following his party's support for a recent opposition appeal for respect of civil liberties.

Egypt-USSR

During a 15 April news conference cited by *Al-Ahram*, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo confirmed that the USSR has agreed to supply spare parts for Soviet weapons still used by the Egyptian armed forces.

Kuwait

A "responsible" Foreign Ministry source cited by KUNA stressed that Kuwait's leasing tankers from "friendly" countries or registering ships abroad was a "normal" response to "economic and security needs." The source warned against basing "tendentious" reports on such facts or exploiting them to "escalate and complicate" the situation in the Gulf.

In remarks cited by KUNA, Vladimir Petrovskiy, Soviet deputy foreign minister, praised Kuwait's "moderate and balanced" policy and expressed "satisfaction" with the identity of the two countries' views on the need for an international peace conference on the Mideast. Petrovskiy also declared that the USSR is attempting to apply "new thinking" for the political resolution of regional conflicts. The Soviet official, who was addressing a 19 April press conference, noted that Kuwait "warmly welcomed" Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal regarding free navigation in the Gulf.

Following his visit to Kuwait, Petrovskiy began talks in the UAE 20 April, KUNA reported, noting that he is the first senior Soviet official to visit Abu Dhabi since relations were established in 1985.

Syrian-Iranian Relations

The Syrian oil minister arrived in Tehran 19 April, stating that the purpose of his visit was to reaffirm the 1982 oil agreement and to discuss economic ties in order to increase the volume of bilateral trade, Tehran radio reported. The Syrian minister subsequently expressed satisfaction with the progress of talks with his Iranian counterpart, the radio said, and he noted that fresh proposals for improving cooperation were raised during the meeting. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam subsequently arrived in Damascus for talks on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region, the radio disclosed.

Afghanistan

The Soviet Union will take "every necessary measure" to stop violations of its borders, an 18 April TASS statement warned. TASS disclosed that two Soviet border guards were killed when Afghan dushmans crossed the Piandzh River and attacked their detachment the night of 8-9 April. The Afghans suffered heavy casualties and retreated in disarray, the statement noted.

"Important" DRA-USSR agreements were signed 18 April by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Council of Ministers chairman, and K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Kabul radio reported. The documents cover R30 million in aid to education, public health, information, and communications as well as economic and technical cooperation with the participation of Afghanistan's private sector. At a luncheon in honor of the Soviet delegation, Keshtmand emphasized that the "valuable assistance" will contribute to the implementation of Afghanistan's policy of national reconciliation. The following day the Soviet delegation attended the opening of the first national conference of private investors where PDPA General Secretary Najibullah spoke on the private sector's role in combatting "backwardness" by strengthening the country's economy.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

South Asia

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Further Reportage on Visit of USSR's Katushev

Keshtmand Banquet Speech

LD182208 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] [Announcer] As broadcast during tonight's news bulletin, today the DRA Council of Ministers hosted a lunch banquet at their headquarters in honor of the visiting USSR high-ranking delegation. The delegation, headed by Comrade Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, is in the country for a friendly and official working visit.

At the banquet, which took place in a friendly and cordial climate, speeches were exchanged between Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and Comrade Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, in connection with the friendly and fraternal relations between both countries governments and people.

Now please pay attention to the speech made by Comrade Keshtmand: Esteemed comrades and friends. Today we signed important intergovernmental documents with our esteemed Comrade K.F. Katushev. On this basis, new valuable assistance will be given to our country. With profound gratitude toward our Soviet brothers in our hearts, we express our satisfaction that this assistance will further contribute to our country's economic and cultural development and to implementing the national reconciliation policy. The national reconciliation policy, whose major aim is to ensure peace in our ancient land, is not only being confirmed by various strata of Afghanistan's society but it is also being practically supported by our friends in the international arena.

The PDPA and the DRA Government are actively implementing this policy. Since 15 January 1987 the DRA Armed Forces have unilaterally observed the ending of combat operations. Also, a number of measures have been put into practice which aim at implementing the national reconciliation policy. The number of supporters of reconciliation, including those among our opponents, is increasing daily. This satisfactorily confirms the irreversible character of the revolutionary process in Afghanistan and people are actively joining in the national reconciliation process, which contributes broadly to the consolidation and expansion of the revolutionary bases.

The most important direction of activity of the PDPA and the DRA Government at present to ensure the country's constant economic and social development, and to raise the living conditions of the Afghan people.

The Soviet Union plays a great role in the implementation of our economic programs. With the USSR's economic and technical cooperation, during the current 5 years a total of 130 projects will be undertaken in all economic and social spheres of the country and are included in the basic guidances of the DRA socioeconomic development plan for 1986-1990.

There is great satisfaction that Afghan-Soviet friendship is increasingly being consolidated and deepening. One of the important features of the current stage of our friendship is the new approach to the further development of bilateral relations. A firm basis for such an approach has been laid during [words indistinct] accords in the course of talks between Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, last December in Moscow.

The visit by E.S. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and Comrade Anatoly Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to our country in January 1987 brought very fruitful results in discussion and assessment of all the issues of Afghan-Soviet relations.

After our working visit to Moscow in February 1987, the agreement dated 26 March 1987 on rendering economic assistance to the DRA, was signed by the DRA and the Soviet Union. The material basis for the agreement achieved had been laid during talks with Comrade N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Today we signed a number of important documents between our governments, rendering grant-in-aid to the DRA in the spheres of education, public health, vocational training, information and communication, veterinary, the campaign against locusts, continuation of the dispatch of experts for the Polytechnic Institute of Kabul, the Technical College of Automechanics of Kabul city, the Technical College of Oil and Gas of Mazar-e Sharif, as well as cooperation in creating projects with national private investors in the DRA.

Our people consider all these as another manifestation of international solidarity and fraternal and selfless assistance from our great neighbors, the Soviet people.

Permit me, on behalf of Afghanistan's people and the DRA Government to express profound appreciation to the CPSU Central Committee, the Government of the Soviet Union, and all Soviet people for all the great and valuable assistance which has been rendered to revolutionary Afghanistan in the struggle for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and ensuring peace and a better future.

Katushev Banquet Speech

LD190008 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Speech by Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, at a lunch hosted by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, at DRA Council of Ministers headquarters in Kabul on 18 Apr — recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades, esteemed friends: It has not been long since the meeting between Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee in Moscow,

during which an important accord, including the important development in Afghan-Soviet economic cooperation, was achieved.

In our view, the accords will play an important role in ensuring the economic aspect of the national reconciliation policy and in (?reviving) the country's national economy, which is the goal of the leaders of Afghanistan.

The implementation of the accords has begun. In January, an agreement was signed on extra assistance to the DRA in agricultural assistance, irrigation, transport, and housing construction through the renewal of the distribution of previously [words indistinct] loans. The accord will be implemented. Both our governments have taken new steps toward expediting extra assistance from the Soviet Union to Afghanistan.

The current visit of the Soviet delegation to friendly Afghanistan and the signing of new documents between the two countries by their authorized representatives are very important from the viewpoint of both sides. Among these documents is the protocol on a grant-in-aid to the DRA in the social sphere and agreements on cooperation in building establishments with the participation of the DRA's private sector.

A grant-in-aid, with a volume of R30 million, is vitally important to the DRA's national economy. The grant covers the spheres of education, cadre training, information, and communication.

A new direction of Afghan-Soviet cooperation will be opened by a protocol for the construction of projects by DRA private sectors.

During the talks held in Moscow in February with a representative delegation of the concerned state establishments and representatives of the DRA private sector, the basic directions, primary projects, and possible forms of cooperation were established and specified.

The establishments of enterprises with small- and medium-sized production capacity in various fields has been considered. A list of more than 170 projects was submitted for assessment. At the moment, technical and commercial proposals are being prepared on about 38 projects. Relevant contracts have been prepared on some subjects, including a bicycle assembly project.

The implementation of these primary activities has prepared the ground for signing this agreement today. According to this agreement, it has been envisaged that a loan of R50 million be given to the DRA Government under easy conditions. The loan should be used for the preparation of [words indistinct] equipment of the Soviet Union and giving technical assistance for the proposed projects.

While signing the agreements, both sides affirmed that attracting the DRA's private sector to production fields should yield a positive effect on stabilizing the economy, supply a noticeable volume of goods for domestic markets, and also expand the DRA's export base and resources. In addition, a part of the output of these projects will be exported to the Soviet Union.

The agreement and protocol mentioned earlier were not the only outcome of the delegation's work. While understanding the great importance of the further development of Afghan-Soviet cooperation in traditional spheres such as training national Afghan cadres and giving assistance in the agricultural and veterinary fields, we have signed important inter-governmental agreements today.

We have considered the continuation of sending Soviet advisers, teachers and [words indistinct] as well as the continuation of the teaching and training process in the polytechnic institute and the automechnic technical college in Kabul, and at the oil and gas technical college, which was established with Soviet assistance. Grant-in-aid assistance will be given in the sphere of maintaining a veterinary laboratory. Also, biological equipment and medicine will be handed over and Soviet experts will be sent. A special delegation for a campaign against locusts will be sent to the DRA.

In conclusion, allow me on behalf of the Soviet delegation to express satisfaction on the results of the talks. The documents signed have reflected the views of both sides. I am sure the implementation of these documents will play a noticeable part in the development of Afghan-Soviet economic cooperation, in the strengthening of friendly relations, and in enhancing the existing goodneighborly relations between both our countries and peoples.

Cooperation Protocols Signed

LD182232 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Today at the DRA Council of Ministers Headquarters important intergovernmental documents were signed between the DRA and the USSR. Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and Comrade Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation aimed at the construction of projects in the DRA with the participation of the private sector in Afghanistan and a protocol on grant-in-aid assistance in the spheres of education, public health, information and communication, from the Soviet Union to the DRA.

Also a protocol on agreement between the DRA government and the Soviet Government in connection with economic and technical cooperation in the construction of economic projects with the participation of the private sector in the DRA was signed by Seyyed Amanuddin Amin, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers. Documents on rendering grant-in-aid for the campaign against locusts, for operating five veterinary clinics and their laboratories; and for continuing the teaching process at the Polytechnic Institute in Kabul, the Technical College of Automechanics of Kabul city, and the Technical College of Oil and Gas of Mazar-e Sharif during 1987-1988, were signed by Comrade Mohammad Aziz, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the State Planning Committee, and by Comrade Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

According to the BIA, during the signing of the agreement, protocols, and documents, those present from the DRA side were: Comrades Seyyed Mohammad Golabzoy, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of interior; Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Mohammad Hakim, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; a number of ministers; and a number of high-ranking state officials. From the USSR side were: Comrade Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the USSR to the DRA; Aleksandr Petrov, economic counsellor of the USSR Embassy to the DRA; (Pezhilov), trade representative of the Soviet Union to the DRA and other members of the Soviet delegation; and a number of the employees of the USSR Embassy in Kabul.

At the end of this ceremony, short speeches were exchanged between Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and Comrade Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

[Text] According to another report Seyyed Amanoddin Amin, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, met this afternoon with Comrade Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

During the meeting, which took place at the Council of Ministers headquarters, the participants discussed economic and technical cooperation in the private sector. Present at the meeting were: Comrade Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the USSR Embassy in the DRA; Aleksandr Petrov, economic counsellor at the USSR Embassy to the DRA; (Pezhilov), trade representative of the Soviet Union in the DRA; and other members of the Soviet delegation.

According to another report a luncheon banquet was held at the Council of Ministers headquarters by the DRA Council of Ministers in honor of the high-ranking state delegation from the USSR, headed by Comrade Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Relations, who is in the country on a friendly and official working visit.

A BIA correspondent reports that during the meeting, which took place in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, speeches were exchanged between Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and Comrade Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, in connection with the fraternal and friendly relations between both countries governments and people.

Mujahidin Hit Soviet Army Jeep With Rockets

BK170822 Karachi Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin launched an attack on Qandahar District jail, killing eight security guards on the spot. They also hit an army jeep with rockets in Qandahar City. The Soviet troops traveling on the jeep were killed. According to another report, the mujahidin attacked the security post in Panjwai subdivision of Qandahar Province, killing four enemy soldiers.

Reportage on Visit of Turkish Foreign Minister

Arrives in Dhaka 17 Apr

BK171349 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu arrived in Dhaka today on a 3-day visit to Bangladesh. Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury received him at the Zia International Airport.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the Turkish foreign minister said Turkey and Bangladesh are good friends with bilateral cooperation in different fields. He said he will discuss bilateral, regional, and international issues of common concern with theBangladesh foreign minister during his stay in Dhaka. He will also call on President Ershad. He expressed the hope his visit vill further strengthen the existing brotherly relations between the two countries.

Mr Halefoglu also expressed satisfaction over the volume of cooperation between Bangladesh and Turkey at different levels and said the two countries are keen to further consolidate their cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural, and technical fields. The Turkish foreign minister is leading a five-member delegation.

Halefoglu, Chowdhury Dinner Speeches

TA181140 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1000 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has called for an end to the oppression of Turks living in Bulgaria. Speaking during a dinner in honor of visiting Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu in Dhaka, Chowdhury said that during his visit to Bulgaria, he will discuss the plight of Turks living there. He added that his government supports the Turkish policies on Cyprus.

In turn, Halefoglu briefed those attending the dinner about Turkish views on Cyprus and its relations with Greece and Bulgaria. He then said that he appreciated Bangladesh's support for ending the plight of Turks living in Bulgaria, as well as its stand on Cyprus.

Later Halefoglu is expected to meet with the Bangladesh president and deputy prime minister.

Meets With Counterpart

BK181628 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Bangladesh and Turkey have decided to further expand their bilateral cooperation in various fields and have made a number of decisions in this respect. The two sides also agreed in principle to abolish the visa system between the two brotherly countries. The decision came at the formal talks between the two countries in Dhaka today.

Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury led the Bangladesh side at the talks, while the visiting Turkish foreign minister, Vahit Halefoglu, led his country's delegation. The two sides decided that the first meeting of the Bangladesh-Turkey joint economic commission will be held in September next. They also agreed to collaborate in the field of radio and television and exchange scholarships.

Meanwhile, the Turkish foreign minister called on the deputy prime minister, Mr Moudud Ahmed. Mr Moudud Ahmed explained to the Turkish foreign minister the salient features of the government's industrial policy. The facilities for private sector to set up joint venture industries were also explained. The visiting foreign minister appreciated the progress achieved so far in Bangladesh.

Further on Talks

TA181743 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1600 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Official Turkish-Bangladesh talks have been held in Dhaka. The talks, which were headed by Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, respectively, focused on bilateral relations as well as the situation of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria, Turkish-Greek relations, and the Cyprus problem. The problems in the Far East, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Middle East problem were also discussed at the talks. Halefoglu and Chowdhury also agreed on the continuation of the two countries' cooperation at international forums.

Before the talks, the two foreign ministers exchanged the ratification documents for the maritime agreement between Turkey and Bangladesh. Halefoglu invited Chowdhury to visit Turkey.

Joint Economic Committee Formed

TA190634 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
0430 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Turkey and Bangladesh have decided to establish a joint economic and trade cooperation committee. The decision was reached at the end of talks held between Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu, currently on a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury in Dhaka.

A statement by the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry spokesman says the joint committee is expected to be formed by October. It adds that the two foreign ministers decided to appeal to Iraq and Iran to respond to efforts to put an end to the war between them.

Meets With President Ershad

BK181603 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu has described his 3-day visit to Bangladesh as extremely fruitful. Addressing a news conference before his departure at the end of the visit, the

Turkish foreign minister expressed the hope that the visit will expand further cooperation between the two countries in various fields. He said the two countries could further diversify their cooperation in different fields. Turkey is ready to share its experience and expertise in building cement factories, leather industry, textiles, and electronics. There is also enough opportunity to forge greater cooperation in cultural and technical fields. The Turkish foreign minister said the two countries are expected to sign an air accord in the near future to facilitate the air services between Dhaka and Ankara. Referring to his talks with the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr Vahit said that both countries held (?identical) or most similar views on major global issues.

Earlier, the Turkish foreign minister called on President Ershad at Banga Bhavan today and conveyed to him the personal greetings and good wishes of President Kenan Evren. President Ershad also conveyed good wishes and greetings to the Turkish president and expressed his confidence that the cooperation in various fields will be further strengthened in the coming days.

Pre-Departure News Conference

TA191521 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 14505 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Dhaka (A.A) — Having concluded his contacts with Bangladeshi officials, Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu left Dhaka Sunday for Japan. Addressing a press conference prior to his departure, Halefoglu said the current division of Cyprus would become irreversible unless the Greeks took initiatives to resolve the dispute.

"The problem is much the concern of the Greek side. It is now up to them to come up with a solution", he said, adding "alternatively, they must realise that time is running against them and the two Cypruses will be a reality".

He said Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou was responsible for scuttling the proposal by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in March 1986.

"The Greek Cypriots are not accepting the proposal because they are under the influence of Papandreou", Halefoglu added.

Concerning the relations between Turkey and Bangladesh, Foreign Minister Halefoglu said the two countries decided to increase trade and encourage joint business ventures and air and sea links. Trade between the two countries is currently worth 18 million dollars a year, with the surplus in favor of Bangladesh.

Halefoglu met President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and had talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury during his three-day Bangladesh visit.

Further Reportage on 'Arms Deal' With Swedish Firm

Government Denies Allegations

BK171248 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] The government has categorically denied all allegations contained in the news story based on the reports broadcast by the Swedish radio and television in connection with an arms deal order placed on the Swedish firm Bofors. A statement issued by the government in New Delhi today says the news item is false, baseless and mischievous. During the negotiations the government had made it clear that the company should not pay any money to any person in connection with the contract. The government's policy is not to permit any clandestine or irregular payments in contract. Breach of this policy by anyone will be most severely dealt with.

The government statement says the report is one more link in the chain of denigration and destabilization of our political system. The government and the people are determined to defeat this sinister design with their might, the statement adds.

Sweden Denies Middleman Role

BK181459 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Sweden has informed India that the Swedish arms firm Bofors has clarified that no middlemen were involved in the arms deal with India and the company was negotiating it directly with the Defense Ministry. The information, which came amid the controversy over the reported payoff by Bofors, was contained in an aide-memoire handed over by the Swedish ambassador, Mr Ernst Axel Edelstam, to the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in New Delhi today.

An official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the aide-memoire was a word-for-word translation of a statement made to the press in Stockholm yesterday by a Swedish official. The statement says the company had declared in the autumn of 1985 to the representatives of the Swedish Government that no middlemen existed and that the company was negotiating directly with the Indian Defense Ministry. This, the statement added, was transmitted by the former Swedish prime minister, Mr Olaf Palme, to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in a personal talk in January last year. It further said that Mr Rajiv Gandhi had himself demanded in his talks with Mr Palme that one of the several conditions for Bofors in order to get the contract would be that the company eliminates middlemen.

AFP Cites Swedish Journalist

BK190603 Hong Kong AFP in English 0551 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 19 (AFP) — A Swedish radio journalist here said Sunday Indian officials had asked him to help in an investigation into a report by his station that members of India's ruling party and defence officials took bribes from the Swedish arms firm Bofors.

Rolf Porseryd, whose radio station reported Thursday that bribes had been paid, stirring up a major political storm in India, said the request had come from officials of the Indian Foreign Ministry at a meeting here Saturday. "They said they would like me to cooperate in getting at the truth," Mr Porseryd, Hong Kong correspondent for the publicly-owned Swedish radio, told *Agence France-Presse*.

Foreign Ministry officials could not be reached for comment Sunday.

"They said they would like to look at some documents in our possession," added Mr Porseryd, 40, who arrived here Tuesday and has been questioned twice by the Foreign Ministry since Thursday's report.

The report, from Stockholm, said Bofors had paid more than 30 million kroner (4.8 million U.S. dollars) into secret Swiss accounts for members of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's governing Congress (I) Party and Defence Ministry officials. Bofors, which has denied the report, overcame intense international competition last year to win an eight-billion-kroner (1.27-billion-dollar) contract for field artillery for the Indian Army.

The Indian Government has denied that politicians and officials took bribes from Bofors for awarding the firm the contract, reported to be the only major defence deal to have been signed during Mr Gandhi's term as prime minister.

Mr Porseryd, who said he did not know how long he would be in India, described Saturday's meeting with Indian officials as "cordial and friendly." He said he had been told there would be more meetings. The journalist has denied reports that Thursday's broadcast was based on a report filed by him from here, describing them as attempts to discredit his station's investigation.

The *United News of India* (UNI) News Agency said the government was investigating the "circumstances in which the correspondent came here and filed the report," but the UNI report could not immediately be confirmed. Mr Porseryd said he did not know if he was under investigation. His station has said that it had access to documents showing that Bofors paid commissions in four instalments to Indian accounts in Swiss banks. An Indian newspaper, *The Hindu*, Sunday quoted a spokesman for the station's news department as having said it was considering making at least one document public early next week to back up its report.

Gandhi Target of 'Disruptive Forces'

BK181607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi says the forces of destabilization are again active in the country and trying to exploit the present political situation. Presiding over the Congress-I Working Committee in New Delhi today, he said their aim is to create an atmosphere of instability in the economic field as well as in other vital areas like defense. The working committee had extensive discussions in the forenoon on the political situation. It was

followed by an extended meeting in which the PCCI [Pradesh — state — Congress Committee-I] presidents, leaders of the Congress-I legislature party, cabinet ministers and prominent state leaders took part.

Briefing newsmen, the party general secretary, Mr Naval Kishore Sharma, said the deliberations centered around the steps to frustrate the attempts at destablization. It was decided that a mass mobilization program would be undertaken by the party. For this there would be direct district level conventions all over the country to be followed by pradesh-level conventions. He said assembly election results were not discussed at the meeting.

The working committee adopted a resolution which was endorsed at the extended meeting lasting more than 5 hours. The resolution says the nation faces grave dangers. The unity and integrity of India are threatened by communal, fundamentalist, divisive and separatist forces. A democratic parliamentary system is being subjected to severe strains through a campaign of calumny. The national economy is sought to be destabilized by a deliberate attempt to divert attention from the real issues of investment, growth, and social justice to barely peripheral issues. An atmosphere of cynicism and despair is being fostered, undermining the confidence and determination of the nation.

The resolution says the prime targets of the disruptive forces are the Congress-I and its leader, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. A vicious campaign of falsehood, insinuation, and innuendo backed by baseless and malicious charges has been mounted to tarnish the image of the party and its leadership and has been intensified in recent weeks. The resolution recalls the events of the last 6 weeks and says these have established beyond doubt the link between internal forces of subversion and external forces hostile to the country. It appeals to the people to be aware of the dangers lurking all around. The people have to resist the attempts to dismantle the democratic set up and to tie the country to the apron strings of neocolonialism.

Pakistan's 'Nefarious Game' Assailed

BK190349 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The Congress-I Working Committee says hostile forces from within and outside have joined hands to destabilize the country. In a resolution adopted after daylong deliberations in New Delhi yesterday, it said recent events clearly established that a grand design of destabilization is being carried out with meticulous attention. A vicious campaign of falsehood, insinuation, and innuendo backed by baseless and malicious charges has been mounted to tarnish the image of the party and its leadership. The resolution accused the forces of right reaction of maneuvering to topple a popular government.

The Working Committee says the attack on the political system has proceeded in parallel with the attack on the defense system. All manner of phony issues are being generated including flagrant misinterpretation of clear constitutional provisions to throw the delicate equilibrium of Indian polity into turmoil. The Working Committee felt that the national faces grave dangers. The unity and integrity of the country is threatened by communal, fundamentalist, divisive and separatist forces. The national economy is sought to be destabilized by a deliberate attempt to divert attention from real issues of investment, growth and social justice to purely peripheral issues. An atmosphere of cynicism and despair is being fostered, undermining the confidence and determination of the nation.

The resolution referred to the external support of the secessionist forces in Punjab and said despite vehement protestations of friendship Pakistan has continued to indulge in its nefarious game of sowing dissension and disharmony in both Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The supply of sophisticated weapons to Pakistan and Islamabad's objective to go nuclear have been further aggravated by a massive campaign to undermine the moral of our Defense Forces through inspired and motivated stories regarding defense contracts. The avalanche of disinformation left loose on an unsuspecting public aims at weakening our defense preparedness. The Working Committee called upon the people to be aware of the dangers lurking all around and to resist the attempts to dismantle the democratic setup and to tie India to the apron strings of neocolonialism. [passage omitted]

Gandhi's Statement to Lok Sabha

BK200958 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that if it is proved that any person had received commission in the arms deal with the Swedish firm Bofors, severest action would be taken against him. If the opposition could provide evidence in this case, government would take action and nobody, howsoever high, would be spared. Intervening in the special discussion on the subject in the Lok Sabha today, Mr Gandhi reiterated that no middlemen were involved in the deal. Government had made it clear to Bofors and the Swedish Government that there would be no middlemen and no payment could be made to them either openly or clandestinely.

The prime minister said that the deal was finalized only after the Swedish Government gave such an assurance. Mr Gandhi referred to his conversation with the late Swedish prime minister, Mr Olof Palme, in January last year where he had put forward three conditions in connection with the deal. These were that the guns should be superior and acceptable, the cost must be less than that of the competitors, and there must be a firm assurance that no middlemen would be involved. After checking up, Mr Palme had assured that no middlemen were involved in this deal. Mr Gandhi said when the Swedish prime minister assured us after going into the issue in depth we had to accept his word.

Referring to the charge made by the Swedish radio, the prime minister said the company was contacted, which said that their information was supplied by a correspondent in India. That correspondent has refused to part with any information to the government.

Earlier, the question hour was suspended on persistent demand by the opposition to take up a special discussion on the subject. The discussion began after a statement by the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, who categorically denied the allegation by the

Swedish radio that bribes have been paid to senior Indian politicians and key defense figures to win a contract awarded by the Indian Government to Bofors for purchase of FH 77B 157 mm towed howitzers. He described the allegations as totally baseless. He said no middlemen were invlved in the deal.

Initiating the discussion, Mr Madhav Reddy, Telugu Desam [Party], suggested that files relating to defense deals should be placed with the speaker, who could decide on sharing information with the members. Another opposition member demanded a parliamentary probe into the deal. Ruling party members said there appears to be a conspiracy behind such allegations, which are meant to destabilize the government. An opposition member said a campaign against corruption cannot destabilize the government and quoted some instances of other countries.

The prime minister pointed out that there was a difference and said here in our country the head of government is not involved in any scandal. Referring to the report of an international business organization misusing the name of the prime minister, Mr Gandhi said the instance has been brought to the notice of government and appropriate action is being taken.

Referring to an opposition member's suggestion for a discussion on the demand for grants of the Defense Ministry before the [words indistinct] is applied on Friday, the prime minister assured the house that he will ask the parliamentary affairs minister to find time to discuss the Defense Ministry demands. The debate is in progress.

The Rajya Sabha will debate the Bofors issue immediately after the question hour tomorrow. The chairman, Mr R. Venketaraman, gave this ruling after several opposition members demanded a comprehensive debate on the issue tomorrow. He said that the minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh, was prepared to make a statement even today, but the consensus among leaders of various political parties in the house was for a full debate tomorrow.

At the beginning of the discussion, the chairman, Mr Venketaraman, said since he was the defense minister from January 1982 to the middle of 1983, it will not be proper for him to be in the chair while the house was discussing the defense deals. He requested the deputy chairman, Mrs Pratibha Patil, to preside.

Minister's Statement to Rajya Sabha

BK201002 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] The government today categorically stated that the Defense Ministry has not appointed any agent authorized to act on behalf of the Government of India in respect of any defense contract. In a statement in the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh, said that the prime minister had instructed that the Department of Defense should not deal with any nongovernmental agent or a foreign supplier in respect of any commercial negotiation.

The minister was making the statement on inquiry ordered by the former minister of defense, Mr V.P. Singh, into the payment of commission by the supplier to an Indian agent in a defense deal. Mr Arun Singh said that the committee under the defense secretary to study the modus operandi of agents has been constituted and has begun its work. The minister assured the members that most stringent procedures have been laid down to insure quality and technical parameters of equipment procured by the Defense Ministry.

Earlier, initiating the discussion Mr K. Mohanand, CPI-M, demanded that a parliamentary committee should go into the matter. He also urged the government to come out with the details of the forces trying to destabilize the country. The discussion was marked by noisy interruptions and acrimonious exchanges. The debate is in progress.

'Terrorists' Kill 5, Injure 2 in Punjab 17 Apr

BK180746 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] At least five persons were shot dead and two seriously injured by terrorists in Punjab late last night in two separate incidents. Agencies quoting the police say that five persons were killed when a group of 8 to 10 terrorists fired indiscriminately in the remote village of Larniake under Lapoke police station in Amritsar District.

In the other incident at village (Pakhokhe) in Tarn Taran, two brothers were shot and seriously injured by four terrorists. The injured have been admitted to a hospital in Amritsar.

Curfew Imposed in Gujarat Town Following Violence

BK191556 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] In Gujarat, an indefinite curfew has been imposed from 1800 this evening in areas under two police stations in Nadiad town of Kheda District following sudden outbreak of violence. According to the police, the trouble started in the wake of group clashes. Police burst teargas shells to disperse a violent mob indulging in stone throwing and arson.

Government Expresses Shock Over Sri Lanka Massacre

BK180855 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] India has expressed shock and profound sorrow over the Trincomalee massacre in Sri Lanka. In a statement issued in Colombo, the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, said New Delhi unequivocally condemns such acts and those responsible for it.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan troops found more bodies today near Trincomalee where Tamil militants allegedly killed a large number of civilians yesterday. According to military sources, the death toll has gone upto 122 with the discovery of more bodies. It may go up further as several of the 60 wounded persons are in serious condition. Among the dead were 10 policemen. The sources also said reinforcements have been rushed to the area.

The Sri Lankan Government has called off its unilateral cease-fire following the killings. It has also imposed curfew in Trincomalee District.

Massacre of Civilians Condemned

BK181611 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] India has condemned the ghastly massacre of over 100 Sri Lankan citizens in the Eastern Trincomalee District. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the government learnt about the cruel massacre near Kituluttuwa with profound sorrow and shock. Those killed in yesterday's criminal violence were mostly civilians belonging to all prominent communities.

The spokesman said those indulging in such unacceptable violence have the obvious motive of obstructing the sincere and sustained effort being made to find an early and peaceful political solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

Pathan-Muhajir Clashes in Karachi Kill 1, Injure 8

BK190206 Hong Kong AFP in English 0141 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, April 19 (AFP) — One person was killed and eight were injured, medical sources said, when Pathans and Muhajirs exchanged gunshots in a two-hour clash in this troubled Pakistani port city Saturday night.

The incident started when rifle-toting Pathans attacked a Muhajir area in the northern part of the city and torched 20 houses, the witnesses said.

The casualties were reportedly Muhajirs, some of whom opened fire with revolvers in self-defence.

Police restored calm after about two hours.

Tension between the two communities had been running high after a meeting Friday of the Pathan-Punjabi Alliance.

Speakers, addressing a heavily-armed crowd, had called for the deportation of Muhajirs to India, from where they migrated to Pakistan after the 1947 partition of the Indian subcontinent.

Pathans and Muhajirs, who last December fought street battles that left about 200 dead and several thousand injured. [Sentence as received]

Karachi Confirms Casualties

BK190630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] The commissioner of Karachi has issued a press note saying a group of residents of Surjani town attacked the Nai Abadi area in North Karachi without any provocation at about 2115 last night.

They shot at policemen posted around Surjani town and started setting fire to the houses of the area.

The press note said incidents of firing occurred in several areas, and after more than half an hour of clashes, the police succeeded in pushing the attackers back.

The Karachi commissioner and district inspector general of police supervised the operation and thereby prevented the loss of life and property after the situation was brought udner control.

The press note added that preliminary reports said nine persons have been injured, one of whom died of his injuries at the hospital. All wounded persons are being treated by expert physicians.

Several persons have been arrested and heavy police patrolling is continuing in the Surjani town and other sensitive areas including Nai Abadi to prevent further disturbances.

The situation is now under control.

Situation Remains Tense

BK200248 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] A pressnote issued in Karachi says the situation in New Karachi area remained tense yesterday following the Saturday night incident in Surjani town. Isolated incidents of stone throwing were reported.

In some isolated incidents of shooting, two persons were killed and several injured. A large number of police have been posted to ensure peace and order in the area.

The pressnote adds that a group of troublemakers set fire to two vehicles in Liaqatabad area last night. The police immediately arrived on the spot and brought the situation under control.

Delhi: 'Shoot-at-Sight' Orders

BK201248 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] In Pakistan, troops have been called out to quell the violence in Karachi. Shoot-at-sight orders have been issued, and Army trucks fitted with machineguns are patroling the riot-hit areas.

Illegal Weapons Seized in Peshawar, Karachi, Lahore

BK190227 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] The police in Quetta arrested six persons suspected to having links with a group of saboteurs and also recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition, including four powerful time bombs.

The *Associated Press of Pakistan* reports that two arms smugglers were arrested in Karachi yesterday and two Kalashnikovs and more than 300 rounds of ammunition were recovered from them.

The agency reported that more than 12 persons have been arrested in Lahore in a surprise raid during a campaign to recover illegal arms and a large number of weapons have been recovered.

Briefs

Destruction of Poppy Acreage — Poppy crop in an area of 73,000 kanals [measurement of land] was destroyed in the NWFP during a two-month campaign. Addressing a meeting of police and civil armed forces at Pihur camp near Sawabi held in connection with the end of the campaign, the NWFP chief minister, Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, reiterated that the restriction on poppy cultivation will be maintained as it is in the best interests of the country. [Excerpt] [*Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Apr 87 BK*]

SRI LANKA

Reportage on Civilian Killings in Trincomalee

Cease-Fire Called Off

BK180542 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government has called off its unilateral cease-fire following the killing of over 100 civilians by Tamil militants near Trincomalee yesterday. The government has also imposed curfew in Trincomalee District. The cease-fire announced by the government last week was scheduled to end on Monday. It was declared to allow the two communities to celebrate new year [Buddhist new year]. The massacre is believed to be the worst since the killing of 140 people in Anuradhapura in May 1985.

LTTE Denies Massacre Charges

BK181152 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 18 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group denied Saturday reports from Colombo that it was responsible for the massacre of 107 Sinhalese civilians in the island's north-east. A spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in the southern Indian of Madras [as received] that the charges were "unfounded" and aimed at "tarnishing the image of our organisation."

The Sri Lankan Government blamed LTTE for Friday's massacre of 107 Sinhalese at Athoya, about 55 kilometres (34 miles) from Trincomalee town in the northeast of the island.

LTTE guerrillas stopped three crowded buses and two trucks on the Trincomalee-Colombo highway Friday, lined up the passengers and shot 107 dead, reports said. More than 60 were reportedly injured.

The attackers escaped into the jungle after the shooting, prompting the Sri Lankan Government to suspend a 10-day unilateral ceasefire with the separatists which began on April 11.

"We are not in anyway involved with it (the massacre)," the LTTE spokesman told *Agence France-Presse* in a telephone interview from the southern port city of Madras. "We are against the killing of innocent civilians and we vehemently condemn such actions," he added, but did not say if his own group suspected anyone in Friday's attack.

The LTTE, the biggest of five groups battling for a Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka, controlled large areas of the island's Tamil-dominated north until a recent government military offensive. All five separatist groups have offices in Madras, the capital of India's Tamil Nadu State.

Another Tamil guerrilla group, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisations [as received] (EROS), also condemned Friday's killings as "senseless". EROS, which is closely aligned with LTTE, said the victims were being transported by Sri Lankan security forces to settlement areas in the Eastern Province from where Tamils had been earlier evacuated by the authorities.

Reports from Sri Lanka have said that most of the victims were returning to their workplace after taking part in Sinhala new year celebrations. Friday's massacre was the second most serious attack since May 1985, when 150 people were killed in north-central Anuradhapura town.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan High Commission here issued a statement saying that the death toll in the Athoya massacre had risen to 122 by Saturday morning with some of the injured dying in hospital later. Some 43 other injured people were taken to Hospital. The statement said the dead included 93 men, 20 women and nine children.

Some 40 LTTE guerrillas were involved in the attack, it said.

The victims included Sinhalese, Tamils and Moslems, the release said.

Curfew Imposed; Police Alerted

BK181148 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Government has strengthened the armed forces in the Trincomalee District with a view to totally eliminating the threat of terrorist violence in the area. Steps have also been taken to provide guns to the residents for their protection. A government spokesman told Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that several far-reaching steps have been taken to prevent a repetition of civilian massacres. These steps will come into effect from Monday the 20th.

Meanwhile, the curfew in the Trincomalee District which came into effect last night will be in force until 0600 tomorrow. Government last night announced that it has revoked the unilateral cessation of hostilities which began on the 11th of this month. Tamil terrorists sprayed bullets at three buses and two lorries in the Trincomalee District last afternoon killing 107 passengers and causing injuries to 60 others. The dead included members of all communities.

According to the Media Center, the terrorist group has been recognized as the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The shooting took place between Alutoya and Kituluttuwa. According to reports, the terrorists fired at the buses filled with people returning home after the new year [Tamil and Sinhala New Year] holidays. It is also announced that the armed forces in the Jaffna District have been placed on maximum alert.

All police stations outside the north and the east have been alerted to the risk of southern subversives attempting to grab firearms belonging to license holders and others in an excercise similar to that adopted during the month before the 1971 insurgency. A senior police office said reports of such gun grabs by armed subversives have been received from Deniyaya and Hakmana. (?Five) guns were removed by the authorities [who] feel that if preventive measures had not been enforced the problem would have been more serious.

'Terrorists' Kill 15 More 20 Apr

BK200721 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0657 GMT 20 Apr 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 20 *(Lanka Puwath)* — The same band of Tamil Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) terrorists brigands responsible for the Good Friday massacre of 126 men, women and children, early this morning attacked the farming village of Wan-Ela, Jayanthipura in the Trincomalee District, eastern Sri Lanka and slaughtered 15 men, women and children.

About the same time 0215 hours (local time), they also ambushed and killed a police inspector and two constables at Oddisudan in the island's Mullaitivu District in the north, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

Residents in the quiet farming village of Jayanthipura were fast asleep, when the gang of terrorists led by regional leader Pulendran, the same one who led the Good Friday afternoon massacre, raided the village firing machine guns. Five men, five women, four teenage girls and a boy were killed.

Jayewardene Warns of Military Action

BK191122 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] The government is making efforts to find a political solution to the problem of terrorism because any military solution could result in the loss of many lives. The Indian government, which has come forward to help solve the problem is striving to persuade [Tamil leader] Prabhakaran and others to join in the negotiations.

However, President J.R. Jayewardene said that we as a government will be compelled to decide on military options if these efforts fail. The president was addressing the 22d congress of the Lanka Jattika Estate Workers Union which ended at the (Nurulia) town hall yesterday. He said that during the past several years the money spent on defense exceeded the investment on the Mahaveli [irrigation and power generation project] and explained the complex nature of the fight against terrorism. The president pointed out that the terrorists did not engage in direct combat, but their tactics were to kill innocent people and escape.

The president of the Lanka Jattika Workers Union, Minister of Land and Mahaveli Development Gamini Dissanayake, appealed to estate workers not to allow Tigers [members of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] sympathizers to infiltrate the estates and called on them to cooperate with the police.

Delegation Likely To Visit India for Ethnic Talks

BK191120 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] The government is most likely to send an important delegation from the Eastern Province to New Delhi to discuss the 19 December proposal involving the Amphara electorate, once India identifies the Tamil groups who it says are ready to resume negotiations on the basis of these proposals, highly placed government sources said.

This delegation, which will consist of members of the parliament of the Eastern Province representing all three principal racial groups, is likely to be led by the home minister, Mr K.W. Devanayagam, the sources added.

The prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in a message to the president, Mr J.R. Jaywardene early this month said that Tamil groups were ready to restart the stalled peace talks on the basis of the 19 December proposal.

Musavi Interviewed on Persian Gulf Tension

LD191223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] After today's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Musavi answered questions by our correspondent on recent attempts by big powers to create tension in the Persian Gulf.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, recent reports point to attempts by the big powers to create tension in the Persian Gulf. What is the position of the Islamic Republic Government on this issue?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This is obviously nothing new; the more progress we make, the more animosity we face from arrogant powers. We are now facing similar measures aimed at supporting Saddam, who is truly on the brink of collapse. It is rather interesting that these steps are being taken under the pretext of securing shipping in the Persian Gulf, while they are actually aggravating tension in the region. These policies in fact tend to create a tense climate.

However, as far as we are concerned, we are determined, despite the superpowers' wishes, to continue this war until the victory is won. The superpowers have not wanted to see us succeed in any stage of our revolution. Nevertheless, despite their wishes, we have managed to take firm strides, consolidate the foundations of our system, achieve all types of victories in different stages, and make Islam famous throughout the world. Eventually, we will expand the Islamic revolution's influence in the world, thus opening new avenues for future moves. Having said that, we are determined to take firm strides in the economic, social, and military fronts; therefore, their efforts will not make us take a step backward. This has always been our normal, revolutionary policy, and the whole world knows it.

At this point, it would be appropriate to remind these powers that these attempts will serve no purpose other than to endanger their interests by the nations in the region.

[Correspondent] What is your message to these nations?

[Musavi] If the officials in these countries are individuals prepared to learn from history, then they must realize that a new chapter has been started in the history of the region by the Islamic revolution; they must learn their lesson from what happened to the shah; they must learn from the outcome of the conspiracies hatched to restrict the Islamic Revolution; they must also learn from the daily defeat suffered by the Saddam regime. Consequently, the sooner they part company with the Saddam regime and the superpowers, the more their interests will be served. My message to these officials is that Persian Gulf waters belong to the region's nations and that these nations together can maintain the region's security. Having said that, it would therefore be in the interest of all the governments in the region to prevent the superpowers from having any access to the region.

They will know, by reviewing the history of our revolution, that we have no fear whatsoever of any conflict with the arrogant powers or their agents, if necessary. [end recording]

Khamene'i Attends Military Parade Marking Army Day

LD181041 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA — President and head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) 'Ali Khamene'i officiated army day celebrations at Tehran's Azadi Square, Saturday morning.

A parade of the armed forces followed speech by the president with units of children of martyred personnel of the armed forces parading in Basij uniforms. Seven helicopters of the air force unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps dropped flowers over the crowded square. Meanwhile, 21 fighter bombers of the Air Force conducted maneuvers, in a display of their combat power. The massive gathering in the square declared their full support for the armed forces with slogans, reiterating continuation of the war till victory.

Meanwhile, a unit comprising personnel of the three branches of the armed forces, Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, police, committees, and ulema paraded in a show of unity. Paratroops of the 23rd Division of the special forces and airborne Brigade 55 of ground forces parachuted in the square.

Later, armoured and heavy equipment of the units of group 33 of the ground forces artillery were displayed including 155 mm field artillery, katyushas, anti-air missiles, and personnel carriers. Armaments seized from the Iraqi enemy, including modern tanks and personnel carriers, also displayed.

Comments on War, Armed Forces

LD180934 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA — President and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i said here Saturday that the Iraqi-imposed war would have only one ending and that is the removal of the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn and the Ba'thist regime from power in Iraq.

Addressing a large gathering at Tehran's Azadi square on the occasion of 'Army Day', the president hailed the Armed Forces for their devotion and said that the Iranian Army was the only army in the world fighting for Islamic objectives and ideals.

The Iranian Army, head of the Supreme Defence Council said, was comprised all strata of people and its composition is an Islamic one. The Islamic Republic Army has proven at the war fronts its high degree of efficiency as well as its commitment to and belief in the Islamic system of rule, Khamene'i said.

Comparing the status of the Army before and after the Islamic revolution, the president said that the pre-revolution Army had only book knowledge of martial disciplines, but that today's army was gaining valuable battlefield experience in practice.

President Khamene'i stressed that because of the Army's reliance on divine power, the backing of the nation, and the spirit of devotion of the combatant forces, the forecast for the war was clear.

Montazeri Says Iran Does Not Want Iraqi Soil
LD171755 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., April 17, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri said here Thursday that Iran has no covetous eye on Iraqi soil and that the Iraqi people will be completely free to establish their own system of government, hopefully on the basis of Islam after Saddam Husayn is toppled.

Ayatollah Montazeri made the remarks in a speech to a group of visiting military and civilian officials, children of martyrs and other people from various walks of life here where he said "our goal is to elminate Saddam Husayn."

The future spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution noted that once the Ba'thist Iraqi regime is toppled both the East and West will feel a sense of disappointment.

The revered ayatollah also castigated the superpowers for dividing the world between themselves and said the fact that Islam has grown and is able to govern the world as a school of thought has annoyed these powers.

Furthermore, the ayatollah said, the superpowers aim at opposing a third power which tires to awaken the conscience of world people or stands against them. This is why Saddam (Husayn) is supported by the U.S., the Soviet Union and other satans and reactionary regimes in the region.

Because Saddam Husayn's regime is now on the verge of complete destruction on the one hand and Islamic Iran is firmly protecting Islam on the other they (superpowers) are attempting to impose a peace on Iran as they imposed the war on it, he said, noting the fate of Islam and the country depends on our final victory in the imposed war."

Elsewhere in his speech, Ayatollah Montazeri lauded the Iranian Armed Forces for their reliance on Islam and the holy Quran. He said that the Iranian Army is now completely independent under the auspices of the Islamic Revolution. He also underlined the need for all Iranian military forces such as the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Army, Gendarmerie, volunteer forces, committeemen and police to maintain their unity in order to achieve victory.

It is now seven years that Iran has been successfully fighting all arrogant powers and their modern weapons and is still standing on her own feet, stated the ayatollah, adding that Iran is involved in such a war that the enemy (Iraqi regime) bombs cities, raids ships, deploys chemical weapons in contravention of all international conventions.

The revered ayatollah also urged the revolutionary committeemen to step up their fight against drug trafficking as well as the spread of moral corruption among Iranian youths.

Present in the meeting were the armed forces chief of staff, Colonel Esma'il Sohrabi, Navy Commander Captain Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan, Air Force Commander Colonel Iraj Sattari, the Ground Forces Commander Colonel Hoseyn Hasani-Sa'di, Defence Minister Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, and head of the Islamic Revolution's Committees Hojjat ol-Eslam Serajeddin Musavi.

A group of the revolutionary committeemen, nomads of the western areas, Army politico-ideological department officials, children of martyrs and defence industries officials were among others present in the meeting.

Kharrazi Denies Meeting Saudi Minister in London
LD181120 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA — Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi here Saturday denied a report carried by the London-based 'TIMES' newspaper on an alleged meeting between him and Saudi foreign minister Sa'ud al-Faysal in London in late March. The daily carried the article on the alleged meeting last week.

Kharrazi said, "these reports are basically issued with the objective of misleading the Islamic Republic of Iran and damage and weaken our determination to continue the war till victory."

The denial of the TIMES report has been sent to the English newspaper but so far the daily has failed to print it.

Velayati Writes to UN on Iraq's Chemical Weapons
LD181116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Following extensive use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime, in a message to Musafa Kamal al-Tulbah, executive director of the UN Environment Program requesting that a delegation be dispatched to investigate these war crimes which have a very destructive and dangerous impact on the environment and ecology systems, Foreign Minister Velayati has called for immediate action and efforts to prevent the deployment of these types of weapons and for a serious approach by officials belonging to organizations, appropriate international venues, and also to humanitarian governments, to the blatant violation of international laws by the Iraqi regime.

Foreign Ministry Denies Using CW; Condemns Iraq
LD181601 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry categorically denied Saturday an Iraqi claim that Iran had used chemical weapons. It also described the claim as "baseless" and as a "trick" aimed at decreasing international pressure on Baghdad.

In a statement released here Saturday, the Foreign Ministry called on the U.N. secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Security Council members to take immediate measures to force Iraq to cease its "inhuman crimes." Stopping war crimes, especially the use of chemical arms, is an international responsibility, it said.

The Iraqi regime has repeatedly violated international conven-

tions and all human laws since the start of its aggression on Iran in 1980, said the statement. It cited Iraqi use of chemical weapons as the worst example of these violations.

The statement said the Baghdad regime in contravention of international conventions again used all kinds of chemical arms on a large scale against Iranian forces April 7-11, martyring and wounding some Iranian combatants.

Iraq's use of toxic gases seriously weakens international efforts to draw up a new anti-chemical arms convention, the draft of which is in its last stages, it said.

The Foreign Ministry statement furthermore said that it is not the first time Iraq has resorted to such "baseless" claims in order to decrease international pressure on it.

The report of March 12, 1986 by a U.N. fact-finding team, which confirmed Iraqi use of chemical weapons not only against Iranian forces but also against its own troops, indicated that the Baghdad Government is ready to subject its own forces to chemical attacks in order to raise such a baseless claim, the statement concluded.

Italy Suspends Gunboat Delivery to Iraq

LD191535 Tehran IRNA in English 1503 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA — Delivery of Italian-Made gunboats to Iraq, for which an agreement was signed before the Iraqi imposed war, has been suspended indefinitely, new military attache of the Italian embassy in Tehran, Captain Luigi Canali told Navy commander Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan here Sunday.

Captian Malekzadegan said that if the gunboats should be spotted in the Persian Gulf, Iranian Navy would send them to the bottom of the sea, or "They will be seized and used against the Iraqi." Iraqi naval units have no presence in the regional waters at all, said the commander, noting that Iranian Navy, is powerfully maintaining security in this strategic waterway.

Later in his meeting with Malekzadegan the Italian attache said his country is willing to improve and expand naval relations with Iran. He also expressed hope that the few military topics held in abeyance since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution, would be decided upon in a near future.

Tehran Assesses USSR Ties to Iraq

LD190129 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 18 Apr 87

[From the Press Review]

[Text] The trip to Baghdad by the first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who carried a message from Gorbachev to Saddam, has opened a new discussion about the end of the Saddam regime. In its political commentary entitled "The Persian Gulf Is Not a Suitable Venue for Military Competition Between East and West," *Ettela'at* writes:

This trip, on the anniversary of the signing of the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between Iraq and the Soviet Union, seemed to be aimed at expanding technical and economic cooperation between the two countries. The Soviet Union is currently working on some 80 nearly completed projects in Iraq, most of which concentrate on oil exploration, industry, agriculture, and irrigation, as well as the expansion of power stations and railways.

The first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has expressed the hope that the current cooperation between the two countries will expand. There is no doubt that behind such economic and commercial cooperation some heavy military agreements have been signed and the military ties of the two sides has been going ahead at full speed.

So far, anytime an objection was raised about Soviet military aid to the collapsing Iraqi regime, while insisting on a peaceful end to the war and the start of peace talks and why they do not hesitate a moment in arming Saddam, they would refer to the agreement between the two countries stating that the Soviet Government must honor all the principles of this agreement.

The life of this agreement has now come to an end and it is time for the Soviets to show how sincere they are in their deeds and actions. Will Saddam's desperate cries for a renewal of this agreement force them to continue this shame and eternal hatred that supports Saddam and his corrupt party? How will the claim that sending military equipment to the Hitlerite regime of Saddam is not a political decision against the Islamic Republic of Iran affect the future political activities of the Soviets?

Political prudence dictates that military support for the dying Saddam will not ensure a clear future for the Soviets in Iraq. A full-blown confrontation with a popular and Islamic revolution will bear no fruit but a storm of anger from a billion Muslims around the world. The great Iranian nation, when facing issues, has always started with a description of the results for those who involve themselves in the terrifying quicksands of the region without any thought.

The great Iranian nation believes that the Soviet reasoning in sending military materiel to Iraq, based on their claim that they have to honor their friendship agreement with Iraq, will no longer be valid now that the agreement has expired. Should the Soviets ignore the pleas of Saddam — who wants a renewal of this agreement and a show of their sincerity, thus realizing that they can no longer count on a pawn such as Saddam — then they will have proved that their new outlook on international issues is realistic. This would be a point of view that shows the acceptance of the pivotal role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in solving the issues of the region.

It is now clear to everyone that a renewal of the friendship agreement is nothing but an excuse to send more arms to Saddam. Such an action can no longer be considered to be without political motivation and will utterly negate all remarks and demands for peace.

Mr Gorbachev said recently the Soviet Government will propose that chemical arms warehouses be destroyed. This stance and decision — were it to be implemented — would be a important

step toward disarmament and the reduction of weapons of mass destruction in the world. But, taking note of the extensive deployment of these weapons by Iraq, we can see that Soviet officials are not adopting any stances whatsoever in condemning Iraq or even exerting pressure in order to prevent their deploying chemical weapons. There is no doubt that this move will necessitate putting an end to the deliveries of these weapons of mass destruction to the Ba'thist Iraqi regime — a regime which, even in the past few days, during the meeting of the disarmament committee in Geneva, embarked on chemical weapon bombing raids. Not only did it trample all international laws and regulations in practice, but has also made a mockery of them. Now, how can one overlook the assistance given to Iraq by its supporters?

The Iranian nation heard with all their hearts the words of his eminence, the imam, when he said: It is not possible for the war to come to an end unless the Ba'thist Party of Iraq is removed. Our nation reminds Saddam's supporters of the imam's council when Afghanistan was invaded, when he said: The USSR cannot remain in Afghanistan. The supporters of Saddam should have a better grasp and understanding of politics than they have shown up until now, and should know that there can be no imaginable future for Saddam. Parallel with the U.S. plan to place its flags at the disposal of the Kuwaiti shaykh and thus guarantee the movement of oil tankers, the Russians also want to place their oil tankers at Kuwait's disposal, little knowing the people of Iran consider this immaturity and naivete to be similar to the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf and view it in the same light.

For those who think the days of gunboat diplomacy have come to an end, what kind of explanation can they give to the act of turning the Persian Gulf into an area of military competition between the naval fleets of the East and West, by placing themselves under the protection of oil tanker escorts? This move will certainly neither gain any influence for the real formulators of this policy, nor will it protect their interests in the Persian Gulf region; rather, it will focus the wrath of the worldwide Islamic ummah on them. The point that comes to mind is that Moscow's leaders should display more intelligence in the face of this situation. And this time they should not lower themselves into a bottomless pit with the rotten rope of Saddam and the shaykh of Kuwait. They should not repeat the mistake they made in Afghanistan, which they are now bitterly regretting.

Reportage on Visit of Syrian Oil Minister

Arrives 18 Apr

NC190530 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Ghazi Durubi, Syrian oil minister, arrived in Tehran last night at the head of an economic delegation comprised of deputies and oil and commerce experts. He was received by Mr Aqazadeh, our country's oil minister.

On his arrival he told our correspondent: The purpose of our visit to Tehran is to renew and confirm the 1982 oil accord between Iran and Syria. During the few days of our stay in Tehran, we will discuss commercial and economic issues of concern to the two countries. We are seeking to increase the volume of trade between Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Holds Talks With Aqazadeh

LD191304 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] The Syrian oil minister, leading a delegation, met with Oil Minister Aqazadeh [date not specified] and discussed bilateral economic ties. In the course of their meeting, the Iranian oil minister, after expressing his pleasure over the visit by the Syrian delegation, said: We attach particular significance to our bilateral relations. Consequently, within the framework of the assistance provided by the Islamic Republic to friendly countries, Syria enjoys priority.

The Syrian oil minister emphasized his country's wish to receive oil supplies from Iran.

During the meeting, fresh proposals aimed at improving cooperation were raised. At the end of the meeting the Syrian oil minister expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the talks, and referred to the views held by both sides as being positive.

Deputy Foreign Minister Departs for Damascus

LD191704 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA — Deputy foreign minister for political affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam left here for Damascus Sunday, at the head of a delegation. Sheykh ol-Eslam is to discuss bilateral relations as well as recent regional developments with Syrian officials.

Iraqi Volunteers in Esfahan Depart for Fronts

NC180634 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] As part of the nationwide dispatch of the Lord of the Ages Corps — may the Almighty expedite his noble advent — a group of Iraqis living in Esfahan departed for the fronts of right versus wrong yesterday under the name Ansar al-Mahdi Corps. This corps, which was organized by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq office in Esfahan in cooperation with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps mobilization of the Esfahan precinct, left for the battlefronts shouting: "War, war until victory!"

Karaj Volunteers Depart

NC190558 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] In conjunction with the extensive dispatch of the Lord of the Ages Corps — may the Almighty expedite his noble advent — from the various parts of our country, two volunteer battalions comprised of specialized forces and personnel from offices, institutions, factories, and revolutionary organizations of Karaj dis-

trict left for the fronts of battle with the Zionist enemy yesterday evening. The volunteers constituted a massive convoy of trench-makers of the Lord of the Ages.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Kurds Raid Northern Iraq

LD171658 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Fath-5 Operational Theater, Northern Iraq, April 17, IRNA — A large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 70 of them captured here Thursday night when their positions were raided by Iranian and Kurdish forces.

Iranian Muslim combatants and Kurdish forces of Iraq's patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), jointly attacked Iraqi bases over the northern heights of Azmar and Pirmagroun [placenames as received] Thursday night, liberating some more enemy bases. The attack was the latest stage of the Fath-5 operations launched by the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and PUK troops in northern Iraq Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a military commander said here Friday that Iraqi regime chemically bombarded Kurdish-populated areas in Zakhu and Dahuk Thursday night in retaliation for bitter defeats inflicted on its forces in northern Iraq by Kurdish strugglers.

Communique No 2,809

LD171719 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA — The Iranian Navy intercepted and inspected 16 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no suspicious cargo aboard, said Joint Staff Communique No. 2809 issued Friday. The communique said that the Iranian Air Force repelled and frustrated all enemy air aggression in the Persian Gulf region.

Exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued in the northwestern fronts, raging more havily in Sardasht, Sumar, Zayd and Talayeh.

Patrols from Divisions 64, 30 and 23 of Iranian special forces inflicted blows on Iraqi Ba'thist forces and destroyed parts of enemy positions and vehicles and returned safely to bases.

An enemy patrol unit came under the fire of Muslim combatants in Naft-e Shah region and was forced to flee after suffering losses.

The communique concluded that artillery fire of Gendarmerie Forces on enemy positions disrupted Iraqi engineering activities and killed a number of Iraqi forces as well as destroyed several Iraqi heavy and light vehicles.

2 Iraqi Choppers Downed

LD180833 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA — Two Iraqi helicopters and five tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed and a large number of Iraqi forces killed or wounded Friday in the ongoing Fath-5 operations, launched Tuesday. Several enemy counter-offensives were also thwarted.

Iranian Muslim combatants under the command of Ramadan headquarters and Kurdish forces of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) jointly attacked military garrisons of Surah Qalat and Karizah in Sulaymaniyah Province inflicting substantial casualties and losses upon enemy forces stationed there. The raid was in continuation of the latest stage of the Fath-5 operations launched by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and Puk troops in northern Iraq.

Meanwhile, informed sources inside Iraq said that the Muslim combatants liberated in 2-hours areas that it took the Iraqi army to capture in 104 days. The sources also described the Fath-5 guerrilla operations as "unprecedented".

Another report from inside Iraq indicates that 160 villagers were injured in the Thursday night Iraqi chemical bombardment of Kurdish-populated areas in Zakhu and Dahuk, in northern Iraq. A number of unexploded bombs remain in the area live evidence of the enemy's inhumanity. The Iraqi chemical bombardment was in retaliation for bitter defeats inflicted on Iraqi forces in northern areas by Kurdish strugglers.

Iraqi Positions Demolished

LD180839 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 18, IRNA — A number of the command headquarters of the Iraqi Seventh Corps near the Salt factory, Val-Fajr-8 operational theater, were demolished by artillery fire of Muslim combatants of Iran. More than 25 Iraqi forces including officers and NCOS were killed or wounded in Iranian shelling over the past 48 hours.

The Muslim combatants zeroed in on the enemy positions and fortifications in the Val-Fajr-8 operational theater (Iraq's port city of Al-Faw) setting them afire. Enemy's engineering activities in the region were halted and several engineering vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed.

'Fath-5' Successes Detailed

LD181012 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Fath-5 operational region, April 18, IRNA — The Fath-5 operations launched in Sulaymaniyah Province, east of Kirkuk and south of Irbil, last Tuesday were described as "unprecedented guerrilla operations in the history of the struggle of Iraqi Kurds", by a commander of the operations here Friday.

The operations, launched by the forces under the command of the Ramadan headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and Peshmerga of the Patriotic Union of Kurdi-

stan, covered a vast area south of Dahuk, Qal'at Dizah and Chuwartah area and cities of Mawat and Irbil, he added.

On achievements of the operations, he said that it blocked major roads and lines of the enemy in the area, destroyed and captured enemy bases in the operational region and liberated more than 10 strategically important heights and 20 villages in northern Iraq. The large-scale attack on Iraqi forces in the area destroyed them.

While describing Fath-5 as one of the most successful partisan operations, he said that it destroyed Baghdad regime's efforts to crush popular national movements and also proved falsity of its claims that it had expelled all militant forces and the IRGC forces from northern Iraq.

One of the characteristics of Fath-5, the commander added, was that it was carried out deep inside Iraqi territory and the mountain range of Pirmum Dagh, the highest in northern Iraq. Enemy bases on Azmar heights were taken over, he added.

The inhabitants of the region welcomed the Fath-5 operations victories as a result of which the Iraqi regime bombarded the Kurdish populated areas.

The commander added that all objectives of the operations were achieved in its early hours and the enemy sustained 1,500 casualties. Some 200 were also taken captive. Large amount of enemy munitions were also seized, he concluded.

16 Iraqis Troops Killed in South

LD181737 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 18, IRNA — Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 18 enemy vehicles destroyed in the southern fronts Friday and Saturday morning when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian forces also shelled Iraqi positions across the Arvand River on the same period, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying six bunkers, four observation posts, three vehicles and some gun emplacements of theirs.

According to other reports from Bakhtaran, an Iranian patrol convoy killed 16 Iraqi soldiers in a western front on Friday.

Elsewhere in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and eight enemy bunkers and one munitions dump destroyed Friday in artillery duels with Iranian forces. Two enemy vehicles were also damaged.

Communique No 2,810

LD181742 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA — Iran's navy gunboats intercepted and inspected 15 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday, but allowed the ships to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Announcing the above here Saturday, the 2810th Joint Staff Communique said that Iraqi troops suffered substantial losses in men and equipment throughout the fronts Friday in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Friday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying five bunkers and one vehicle of theirs.

In the northwestern fronts, several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and a number of enemy gun emplacements and one tank destroyed Friday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants inflicted heavy casualties on Iraqi forces and destroyed two enemy vehicles, several bunkers and one munitions dump in a western front yesterday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts Friday, raging somewhat more heavily in Kushk and Zayd. In Nahr 'Anbar, Iraqi tank fire was silenced and heavy casualties inflicted on enemy troops by Iranian artillery fire.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked in Sardasht, northwestern fronts, Friday. Movement of enemy tanks was halted in Naft-e Shah, western fronts, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,811

LD191653 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA — Iranian navy searched 12 foreign tankers and cargo ships in the Hormuz Strait Saturday, but allowed them to continue vouage wher. no suspicious cargo turned up on board, said joint staff communique No. 2,811 released here Sunday.

The communique said that Iranian combatants consolidated their positions in northwestern fronts especially in Hajj 'Umran and Sardasht regions, and brought enemy positions under artillery fire destroying several munitions dumps and military vehicles and inflicting some casualties on the enemy.

Iranian artillery fire in the western fronts pounded parts of Iraqi positions and suppressed enemy movements inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the Ba'thist troops.

In the southern fronts, heavy artillery fire of the Iranian forces continued pounding Iraqi positions east of Basra during Saturday and Sunday.

Kurds Destroy Intelligence Center

LD191802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] According to reports from the Ramadan Headquarters, the center of the irregular operations of the Guards Corps

Ground Forces, guerrilla forces of the Guards Corps, and Iraqi Hezbollahi Peshmergas destroyed the intelligence center and governorate of Mirgah Sur during an operation which crushed the enemy artillery.

According to this report, during the attack by Iraqi Hezbollahi Peshmergas and guerrillas of the Guards Corps Ground Forces, enemy bases in the (Gulinajmasuaran) sector and large parts of enemy bases in the Biyarah sector were destroyed.

Also, during an ambush on the Mirgah Sur-Diyana road, the group attacked an enemy military column, setting alight a trailer and a personnel carrier and killing a large number of the agents of the Ba'thist regime.

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